Using explosives can be a hazardous process. Possible hazards include fly rock from a blast, fumes, misfires, breach of the exclusion zone and effects that extend past the mine boundary.

The Department’s main concern is the safety and health of the site workers and public safety. The results of unsafe blasting practices could result in serious injuries or fatalities.

This snapshot covers blasting-related incidents for the period from 1 April 2016 to 31 March 2017.

For more information about explosives and blasting practices, visit our website www.dmirs.wa.gov.au

Some recent incidents

**Potentially serious occurrence:** Fly rock 23/03/2017

During blasting of a re-drilled pattern in an open pit, a piece of fly rock, ~10 cm in diameter, was observed breaching the exclusion zone. The fly rock travelled 588 m before coming to rest on a haul road near to where the blast guard and service cart were positioned.

**Potentially serious occurrence:** Blast exclusion zone 01/11/2016

On completion of a blast in an open pit, it was determined that the firing point was well inside the blast exclusion zone. A survey of the location indicates that the vehicle was 216 m from the closest hole.

Spotlight on Mines Safety Significant Incident Report No. 250

Unexpected initiation of detonator and detonating cord
8 February 2017

Key message:
Always reassess hazards and risks when equipment or activities change.

For more information see our safety alerts and summaries for industry awareness at www.dmirs.wa.gov.au/ResourcesSafety

Note: The information in this snapshot has come from a keyword search of incident reports.